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**Price of the Watchman.**

From and after this date, and until there is a change in the prices of provisions, paper and other articles required to carry on business, the subscription rates of this paper will be two dollars for six months, and three dollars for a year.

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**SOUTHERN GENERAL LUTHERAN SYNOD.**  
Concord, N. C., May 23, 1863.

A strict attention to the duties of an Ecclesiastical Convention leaves one but little time to think of other matters. The mind is kept continually upon the strain, and seems to require the few brief intervals of time between the duties of each session to recover its accustomed tone. We are unable to furnish our readers with a detailed account of all that has transpired in the General Convention of the Church that assembled in this place on the 20th inst., and will, therefore, only notice such items as will prove of general interest.

We were perfectly delighted, upon our arrival, to find so many delegates to the Convention present. The two Synods of Virginia and those of North and South Carolina and Georgia were all represented. A spirit of confidence and good-will seemed to pervade the breasts of the brethren, and prepared them for the discharge of the responsible duties which had assembled them. At 10, a. m., Rev. Dr. D. F. Brittle, who had previously been appointed to preach the opening sermon of the Convention, commenced the religious exercises with singing and prayer, and then delivered an admirable discourse from Matt. xxii: 21. After these exercises the Convention was organized, and the President proceeded to deliver his address, which was received and referred to a Committee of one delegate from each Synod. It was now proposed and unanimously agreed to resolve the Convention into a General Synod. Rev. J. Bachman, D. D., was elected President, Rev. D. F. Brittle, D. D., Secretary, and R. G. Chisolm, Treasurer of the General Synod. Upon taking the Chair, the President addressed the delegates in a most solemn and impressive manner, reminding them of their responsibilities and most earnestly exhorting them to lay aside all personal prejudices and to be ready to make such concessions consistent with principle as would tend to promote the union of the whole Church. We need hardly add that the wholesome advice of our Rev. Father was listened to with the profoundest attention, and has exerted a most salutary influence.

Rev. Prof. J. P. Smeltzer presented to the General Synod a paper entitled, "A Plea for the Separation of the Synods South from the General Synod of the U. States of America." It is an able document, which does honor both to the head and heart of its author. It was unanimously resolved to adopt the paper as an expression of the views of the General Synod, and to append it as a preface to its Constitution.

The various Committees appointed by the Convention as its first meeting now proceeded to make their reports.

Rev. J. B. Davis, Chm'n of the Committee on General Synod's Constitution, presented the result of the Committee's labors, which, after a few amendments, was unanimously adopted.

In two respects this Constitution differs materially from that of the Old General Synod. First, it makes the General Synod the highest judiciary of the Church, and in all cases of appeal, its decisions are to be final and binding upon the churches; and, secondly, it is the exponent of the doctrines and usages of our Church. We append here the Article that defines our doctrinal basis.

**ARTICLE II.**

Sec. 1. We hold and receive that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only infallible rule of Faith and Practice.

Sec. 2. We likewise hold that the Apostles Creed, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, and the Augsburg Confession, contain all the fundamental doctrines of the Sacred Scriptures, and we receive and adopt them as the exponents of our Faith.

Sec. 3. Inasmuch as there has always been, and still is, a difference of construction with regard to several Articles of the Augsburg Confession, therefore we acting in conformity with the spirit and the time-honored usage of our Church, hereby af-

firm that we allow the full and free exercise of private judgment in regard to these Articles.

An incident connected with the adoption of this Article is worthy of notice. It was feared by some, as the discussion upon the Article progressed, that no arrangement would be effected which would harmonize the views of the ultra and opposing parties, but such was the spirit of charity prevailing in our midst, that one hostilities after another was met and overcome, until at last there was no opposing sentiment to be found in our midst, and when the question was put, "Shall this Article be adopted?" in token of assent every member of the Convention stood up. So contrary was this to the expectations of even the most sanguine, that our venerable President arrested the business of the Synod until he had offered a prayer of thanksgiving to Almighty God.

The Committee on Government and Discipline then reported, and after sundry verbal amendments they were also approved.

The report of the Committee on Hymn Book and Catechism has been accepted by the Synod, but final action has been delayed to afford the members of Synod an opportunity of examining the works proposed by this Committee. The Synod have at this time the work of the Committee on Liturgy under review, and from present appearances it will take a couple of days at least to dispose of that matter.

At this stage of our meeting it is difficult to say when the Synod will adjourn; the present disposition of the brethren is to remain until they have successfully accomplished all they have undertaken to perform. We are in the midst of a most hospitable people, and such is the attention which the brethren receive on all hands, that were it not for other duties, it would be no difficult matter to induce them to protract their meeting for several weeks.

MAY 28, 1863.

Our last was closed just as the report of the Liturgical Committee was being submitted to the consideration of Synod. It is indeed an occasion for gratulation that we are at last to have something like uniformity in our Church services. Our new Liturgy, in our humble judgment, will be found peculiarly adapted to the wants of our Church,—it is neither too long nor too short, and is so arranged that if need be it can be abridged to suit circumstances without impairing the general order of service, so that whether the whole is used or only a part, our people will realize that they are in the Lutheran Church, both in town and country, while strangers who may chance to worship with us will not be likely to confound us with other denominations. The compilation of such a Liturgy has not been a work of no little labor, and the Church should feel itself under obligations to the brethren who have so faithfully and satisfactorily accomplished their task. Equally as faithful and energetic has been our Hymn Book Committee. No pains has been spared to furnish the Church with a collection of hymns of which we may well be proud.—All our choice hymns have been retained, and many others added that were not to be found in any of our old hymn books. This same Committee was also entrusted with the preparation of Catechism for general use. They have presented to the Synod an exact translation of Luther's Smaller Catechism, which was unanimously adopted as the Catechism of the Church.

The work of these several Committees will constitute our Book of Worship, and will be to our Church what the Book of Common Prayer is to the Episcopalians. It will be in the hands of our people, and its frequent use will familiarize them not only with the usages of the Church, but also with her doctrines and all her distinctive features.

The Joint-Stock Book Company, which originated in the S. C. Synod, was also presented to the consideration of the Synod, but as its organization was not perfected, all action upon it was postponed until our next meeting.

The report of the Publishing Committee of the Southern Lutheran was read, and in accordance with the pledge that was made at the time of its first appearance, the paper was tendered to the Synod as the organ of our Church. After several complimentary resolutions, the offer was accepted by the Synod, and the old Committee retained in the editorial department.

Mr. Jas. H. Murrell was elected the Financial Agent to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of Mr. R. G. Chisolm. We may now consider the Southern Lutheran as the common paper of the church, and as such we trust will be liberally supported by all of our Synods. Its subscription price is much less than it ought to be

considering the increased price of paper and printing, but the Synod preferred to rely upon the liberality of the church, rather than the price should be raised.—From past experience we believe the expectations of the Synod will be fully realized, and that our paper, under all the disadvantages associated with it, may be considered a perfect success.

Several other items of business occupied the attention of Synod, but failing to make a note of them at the time, they cannot now be called to mind; our readers, however, will in a week or two be gratified with a full account of the proceedings by the Secretary of the General Synod.

So steadily and faithfully was the work of the Synod prosecuted by the brethren, that on Tuesday evening it was found that all matters of chief importance had been disposed of, and the Synod adjourned to meet again next year, on the Wednesday preceding Trinity Sunday, at some point to be hereafter determined upon by its officers. In closing this hasty sketch of our proceedings, we cannot but express our great gratification at the handsome manner in which the Synod was entertained by the citizens of Concord and its vicinity. We have passed indeed a most delightful time. Greater hospitality we could not have met with in any other place, and it was with evident reluctance that the delegates took leave of their new made friends. We are sure this first meeting of our General Synod in Concord, N. C., will always awaken the most pleasing reminiscences, and produce the desire to become more intimately acquainted with a people whose generous hospitality seemed to know no bounds.—Southern Lutheran.

**A Change in the War Policy—A Call for More Troops.**

The President of the Confederate States has made a call, through the Secretary of War, upon the Governors of the different States for troops for local defence. We thought this thing necessary last winter, and hence urged the passage of what was known as the Ten Regiment Bill, but the cry of "conflict" was raised, and the measure was defeated. Had the bill been passed the troops could have been organized and in the field, long since.

It seems that the government is beginning to realize the folly of scattering the troops in its service, for the protection of any and every place supposed to possess a little neighborhood importance, and that, hereafter, the forces are to be massed for active operations against the enemy. In order, therefore, to enable the Government, to maintain and increase the strength of its main armies, and to concentrate troops at important points without leaving the country entirely exposed to the marauding parties of the enemy, each State is called upon to organize a force from the militia, for its defence.

Gov. Vance is called upon to raise a thousand, to be ready for duty by the 1st of August and to serve for six months, and not to be carried out of the State. This force will be raised from those persons subject to militia duty, who do not come within the operations of the Conscrip Act.—No one will escape from this service save those named by the Legislature as not being subject to militia duty. Militia and other State officers and those having substitutes will now have a chance to defend their own homes and protect their own property, and to serve the country without leaving their own State, and it is expected that such will not only cheerfully submit to the call made upon their patriotism but that they will gladly embrace the opportunity to defend their own firesides. Persons heretofore exempt from the service on account of the ownership of twenty negroes will not be received into this service, as the exemption bill of the last Congress claims them as conscripts; but such of them as have or may furnish substitutes will be subject to a draft, should one be found necessary to raise the force now called for. It is expected that Gov. Vance will first appeal to the patriotism of the militia to raise this force by volunteering; and should that fail a draft will be ordered in time to have the number required, raised, organized and ready for duty by the 1st of August.

Gov. Vance will issue his proclamation in a few days, we suppose, when the whole matter will be explained and the manner of raising the troops fully set forth. Meantime we may be pardoned for asking for the Executive the cordial and hearty co-operation of all patriotic citizens, in this as in all things else looking to the safety of our homes and property. No man ever labored more zealously, sincerely and untiringly for the welfare of his constituents than Gov. Vance has done, and is doing for the people of North Carolina.—Daily Progress.

**The late Commencement at the University of North Carolina.**

It was hardly to be expected that in these hard and dolorous times as many visitors would attend the Commencement at Chapel Hill as are usually collected there. Gov. Vance and ten of the trustees were there. This Board attracted general attention because of the number of men in it who had served and were serving their country in high places of trust and influence. Dr. McGuffey's sermon before the graduates was esteemed a successful effort to establish, by close argument and apt illustrations, that the spiritual regeneration of the Scriptures is in exact accordance with all of God's operations on those of his creatures that are capable of improvement by the development of their inherent powers. In no case in the universe, that we know, does this improvement take place without the "preparation" of a higher intelligence. President Swain's address before the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, contained interesting and important statements concerning the geography and history of North Carolina, which many hearers want to see published that they may be surely committed to memory.—Col. Wheeler's address before the Historical Society of the University, after discussing the relations between History and the Fine Arts, suggested several events in our own history that deserve commemoration by the painter and the sculptor.

Mr. Argo, of Ala., spoke "the Valedictory" as the best scholar among the seniors, and Mr. Charles, "the Latin," as the second best. Mr. J. C. Gilmer, of Mount Airy, was declared the best scholar in the junior class. Mr. P. H. Adams, of Greensborough, was the "first mite-man" among the Sophomores, and Mr. J. C. Mickle of Chapel Hill, among the Freshmen. As to the competitors in Declaration, the most praise was bestowed on the effort of Mr. Osborne of Charlotte.

The degree of "Master of Arts" was conferred on Mr. John B. Lynch, of Mecklenburg county, Va., and this was the only honorary degree conferred on this occasion. Besides the intellectual refreshment, the comfort of the visitors at Chapel Hill last week was much enhanced by the vigilant and courteous administration of the Marshal, Mr. W. R. Kenan, of Duplin. So our University still lives and long may it live.—Daily Progress.

Long toleration of the enemy's outrage is the cause of the recent extraordinary aggravations of his savage and treacherous warfare.

Within the past few days we have the intelligence of a new violation of the cartel by the enemy, the treachery of which almost exceeds belief. We have from official sources these remarkable facts; that there are now in the hands of the Yankees about six hundred of our officers who were declared exchanged four months ago, and not less than one thousand citizens who were declared exchanged six months ago; that not one of those has yet been returned agreeably to the exchange; and that they are still retained in custody, in disregard of the cartel, and with the evident design of forcing some new negotiations on the South.

We do not believe that an outrage would be attempted upon the South, unless the Yankees had assured themselves of the timidity and pliancy of our authorities. But from what we know of the conduct and temper of the Commissioner of Exchange, in this instance at least, we venture for once to believe that they will be disappointed. We trust that the propositions which he has communicated to Washington, and which have already been referred to in these columns, will be sustained by our Government with unflinching firmness.

It was but recently that we had news of the execution of some of our soldiers by Barnsdorf for the alleged offence of enlisting recruits in Kentucky; when the fact is notorious to all the world that the enemy is every day enlisting negroes in the South to cut the throats of their masters. There is in late events of the war no more remarkable evidence of the aggravation of the enemy's devilish cruelty than the "Death Order" of this bombastic and heartless tyrant. More bloody than the Draconian code, and more brutal than the rude decrees of the savage, it is without a parallel in the domestic rule, or in the warfare, of any people making the feeblest pretence to civilization. It assigns the penalty of death to "writers of letters sent by secret mails," and to all persons who "feed, clothe, or in any manner aid" the soldiers of the Confederacy. This infamous decree will live in history.

We have made this war a huge assumption. We know that they have perse-

cuted us with savage and cowardly hate; that they gloat over the pangs of starving women and children; and that they have appealed to worst passions in the filthy heart of the negro to aid their revenge upon us. Yet, we were not prepared to believe even of enemies so brutal that, not satisfied with the Emancipation Proclamation, and the scheme of servile insurrection, they had actually debated in their State Legislature the policy of paying negroes premiums, for the murder of white families in the South.

The following is taken from an Abolition pamphlet (1863), entitled "Interesting Debate," &c., in the Senate of Pennsylvania. It is characteristic of the blasphemous fanaticism of our enemies and their hideous lust for blood. It is one of those spews of blackguardism and piety which could only have come from a Yankee:

"Mr. Lowry—I believed then and now that He who watches over the sparrow will chastise us, until we will be just towards ourselves, and towards four millions of God's poor-down east prisoners of war. 'I said that I would arm the negro—that I would place him in the front of battle—and that I would invite his rebel master with his stolen arms to shoot his stolen ammunition into his stolen property,' at the rate of a thousand dollars a shot. I said further, that if I were commander-in-chief, by virtue of the war power, and in obedience to the customs of civilized nations, and in accordance with the laws of self preservation, I would confiscate every rebel's property, whether upon two legs or four, and that I would give to the 'slave who would bring me his master's disloyal scalp, one hundred and sixty acres of his master's plantation; for 'would I be at all exacting as to where the scalp was taken off, so that it was at some point between the bottom of the ears and the top of the loins. This, sir, was my language long before Fremont had issued his immortal proclamation. The logic of events is sanctifying daily these announced truths. Father, forgive thou those who deride and vilify me, because I endeavored them; they know not what they 'do.'"

When will the people and the Government of the Confederate States be satisfied that the only means of managing such an enemy as this, is to inflict the penalty of their own law on themselves! We may argue and appeal and proclaim forever without effect. No course in reason is left but to refuse quarters to those who do not give it.—Richmond Examiner.

**A Mail Robber Detected and Arrested.**

On last Sunday afternoon, Harrison James, a young man, who is a shoemaker by trade, and lives in Salem, was most adroitly trapped and his depredations revealed, by Mr. O. A. Keehn, the attentive and efficient Postmaster of Salem. The facts as we heard them are in substance as follows: Mr. Keehn, for a month or two past has had his suspicions excited by the actions of James on Sunday afternoons, immediately after the arrival of the Eastern mail. The mail is distributed in a back room of the building, and the matter for the Salem office brought out, assorted and delivered to the people in the front room. On several occasions while Mr. Keehn and his clerks were busy in the front room, James was noticed to go into the back room, apparently for a drink of water. Suspecting that his object was more than for water, Mr. Keehn concluded to watch him and if detected in purloining mail matter, the proof of his guilt should if possible, be such as to admit of no doubt, and be produced and established upon him before he left the house. Accordingly on last Sunday the plan was carried out and resulted in detecting him of entering the back room, pocketing several packages of mail matter, and then repairing to the front room, where he was confronted by Mr. Keehn and charged with the theft. At first he denied the charge, then confessed to taking one package, but a search of his person brought forth several more. He was arrested and committed to jail. A search of his lodgings brought to light some 30 or 40 letters that he had taken previously, a few of them contained small sums of money, but his ill-gotten gains in this manner would not, from the best judgment could be made, exceed the sum of \$25. The offences in the eyes of the law is none the less the same.

Mr. Keehn's reputation for efficiency and prudence in the discharge of his duties is extensive and well known and the high estimation in which he is held as a public officer, by the people and government, will be increased for the promptness with which he planned and successfully prosecuted the above transaction.

Winston Sentinel, June 19.

The Wheat crop in all sections of Mississippi is magnificent. The yield is so large that the State will be an exporter rather than an importer of flour after supplying the demands of the people and army. In fact, the yield of all grain crops will be abundant. The fruit crop is fine, and everything promises well for year of plenty and bountifulness.

**The Christian Soldier.—The following is from the Chattanooga Rebel:**

General Bragg was confirmed on Wednesday by Bishop Elliot, of the Episcopal Church.—The ceremony was private.